

RE: Ambassador Bridge has become blocked again in both directions

From: "Keenan, Michael" <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
To: "Alghabra, Omar: PARL" [Personal Info.] @parl.gc.ca>
Cc: "Maka, Mike" <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>, "Hill, Miled" <miled.hill@tc.gc.ca>, "Thangaraj, Arun" <arun.thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>, "Brosseau, Kevin" <kevin.brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Date: Tue, 08 Feb 2022 15:11:31 +0000

UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

Below is a detailed operational update from Windsor that that just came in, outlining the activities leading up to the negotiated lane opening. Interesting fact is the lack of commercial vehicles - - mainly personal vehicles.

Note that Coutts now open in one lane in each direction, but situation is precarious around the checkpoints.

Michael

- The Windsor Ambassador Bridge is temporarily closed to Canada-bound traffic, a small number of commercial trucks have been able to travel to the United States using local service streets.
- Northbound and southbound traffic on Huron Church continues to be blocked to traffic at this time. The Windsor Police had temporarily secured a "safe lane" for traffic to move both north and south bound on Huron Church (the roadway to access and egress from the bridge) for emergency vehicles only, but this is now closed again – no border traffic is able to use these lanes – the CBSA and US CBP has requested that Windsor Police allow border traffic to use the safe lane.
- As a result of diverting traffic to the Sarnia Blue Water Bridge, the border wait time is currently at 15 minutes for trucks entering Canada – all 7 commercial lanes are open – additional resources are being brought to Sarnia from other SOR POEs to assist with keeping all available lanes open. Protestors at Windsor have put out a call to Sarnia area protestors to close the highway near the Blue Water Bridge. SOR has engaged OPP to solicit their cooperation in maintaining order along Highway 402, the OPP advised that they cannot provide any assurances that the highway will remain open.
- There are no impacts to cross border traffic at the Windsor Tunnel.
- Although Windsor Police reported last night that the intention last night was to remove the protestor from the roadway last night, this changed and a "wait and see decision" was adopted given they now had "safe lanes" in each direction unblocked. The protestors have moved further north on Huron Church at College Avenue, just south of the CBSA plaza.
- The Windsor Police Service is hosting a coordination meeting and have activated their operations centre this morning. The CBSA will have a representative at the operations centre.
- There is no clear leader amongst the protest group which makes it very difficult for the Police to negotiate as there is no one person to negotiate with – protestors continue to strategize with some reports that additional protestors are expected to arrive in the area later this morning. There has been no significant presence of truck drivers, the majority of protestors are operating personal vehicles. The Police report that the group was difficult to deal with last night as they became very aggressive (after consuming various substances). There is no intention to aggressively remove the group, instead they will try to negotiate a lane for movement this morning, hoping the group will be more amenable. Police report that criminal files have been opened on participants and tickets issued. Windsor police will step up public communication today in order to sway public opinion away from the protestors

From: Alghabra, Omar - Personal [Personal Info.] @parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>

Cc: Maka, Mike <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>; Hill, Miled <Miled.Hill@tc.gc.ca>; Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Ambassador Bridge has become blocked again in both directions
Minister Mendicino just told me that the Windsor police negotiated a lane opening for the ambassador bridge

From: Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:55:09 AM
To: Alghabra, Omar - [Personal Info.] <[redacted]@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: Maka, Mike <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>; Hill, Miled <Miled.Hill@tc.gc.ca>; Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Ambassador Bridge has become blocked again in both directions
UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

Minister,

As of this morning, the Ambassador bridge remains blocked. Traffic is being re-routed to the BlueWater Bridge in Sarnia. PS is in touch with Ontario, and OPP is assisting Windsor Police, but at this time I do not have more details. We should get more from PS and CBSA this AM.

One can see the spooky lack of traffic on the Ambassador Bridge on its traffic cam:

<https://www.ambassadorbridge.com/into-canada/>

And Coutts is closed again.

This is becoming more of an economic blockade. And in a way a food blockade: the blockaders may start creating empty grocery store shelves. Ambassador Bridge carries \$350M in trade and over 7,000 trucks a day (two-ways), and that includes A LOT of food.

I will be pushing on the maximum enforcement strategy with colleagues today.

Michael

From: Keenan, Michael
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2022 7:59 PM
To: Omar Alghabra [Personal Info.] <[redacted]@parl.gc.ca> [Personal Info.] <[redacted]@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: Maka, Mike <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>; Hill, Miled <Miled.Hill@tc.gc.ca>; Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Ambassador Bridge has become blocked again in both directions
UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

Windsor Police are responding.

Traffic has backed up significantly on the US side in particular.

Michael

Michael Keenan

Deputy Minister - Sous-ministre

Transport Canada - Transports Canada

michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca

(pronoun: he/him - pronom d'usage : il)